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January 24th, 1959.

COCOM Document 3416.48/1B

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM BY THE BELGIAN DELEGATION

ITEM 1648

S. Gen 21

The Belgian Delegation, referring to their statement recorded on pages 5 and 6 (part (d)) of the Appendix to COCOM Document No. 3016.00/4, together with the subsequent statements of the French, United Kingdom and United States Delegations to which they have given careful study, would now inform the Committee that their authorities are unable to accept the definition proposed for Item 1648(d) unless the words "in their anhydrous form" are deleted.

1. It should be noted that, among the cobalt compounds sold as commercial salts, most of them are not in an anhydrous form but are more often supplied in hydrated form (this was the case mainly with sulphates, acetates, chlorides, nitrates, hydrates and carbonates). From the point of view of the application of the controls, moreover, it would seem preferable to define the products or content cut-offs as they exist on the market, without having to work out what the content would be in the anhydrous form.

Furthermore, it is apparent from the statements made by the various delegates that the proposed redefinition, although apparently more liberal, would maintain under embargo practically all the commercial-type compounds already covered by the old definition, whereas less strict definitions are under study in the case of alloys.

2. It should further be noted in this connexion that cobalt sulphates, acetates, nitrates, chlorides, hydrates and carbonates are used essentially to non-strategic ends.

Moreover, there is all the less justification to retain them under embargo in view of the fact that the definitions proposed for 1648(b) require the freeing of alloys containing up to 49% cobalt.

3. Among the salts listed above, hydrates are the only ones which contain more than 49% (60/61% Co).

Generally speaking, if alloys containing up to 50% cobalt are freed, the Belgian Delegation wonder why it would not be possible to free all cobalt compounds such as oxides, hydrates and the salts listed above which are used essentially for non-strategic purposes. The Belgian Delegation think it useful to point out that oxides, whose content varies between 70 to 76/77% are used mainly in enamel-works. The various salts and oxides are moreover constituents in the manufacture of paint driers which are free for export.

4. In any event, it would seem reasonable to allow the export of all the commercial compounds whose content, calculated on the basis of the products as they exist on the market, remains within the 50% cut-offs agreed upon in the case of alloys.

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